

A residence of several years in this Territory has furnished opportunities for observation which enable me to conclude that there are hundreds, yea, thousands, of people who never lived so poorly for so great a length of time together, as they have done in these valleys. The living is not poor as regards the staff of life, for breadstuffs and one or two other staples of subsistence are more plentiful and more easily obtained here than in the old countries of Europe. But poor, exceedingly poor, when we speak of a healthful variety of food. And this poverty is intensified by the scarcity in many instances, and the entire absence in some, of groceries. And variety of food, if not essential in every case to a good degree of health, I consider indispensable to the proper enjoyment of this mortal life.

In the States a "quarter," and in the old countries a shilling or a franc, will purchase an excellent meal for a poor family, and which can be varied from day to day. But the "quarter" must grow to a dollar here, and this is often a barren desert for dollars; in fact, they are seldom sufficiently plentiful with the mass of the people to be spent by them for food, except such food as may be found in tea, coffee, tobacco, snuff, and whisky. Here are bread and butter in summer, and bread and bacon and potatoes in the winter, with an occasional basin of mush and milk, a dish of baked squash or beans, or a pumpkin pie, thrown in for dessert. But the appetite frequently demands that variety which is said to be the spice of life, and pines under deprivation. A child, or an adult even, sick or approaching convalescence, scarcely knows what to do with the lump of bread and its slick and greasy complement of fat pork, but looks upon them with a vacant, dissatisfied gaze, or turns away with a fainting, sickening relapse of feeling. Perhaps it is not too much to say that many of our friends, whose bodies now moulder beneath the sod, might have been still with us, if in their sickness a greater variation of little comforts, in the way of palatable and inviting tit-bits, had been procurable for them.

Now, I conceive that this desirable variety is within easy reach, more or less, of most of the inhabitants of this Territory. I am confident that it may be liberally enjoyed by those residing in the lower valleys. The Sorghum Sucre has proved a good thing, and has opened a supply of an excellent article of sweets. Yet many persons could almost starve upon bread and molasses.

In addition to a generous assortment of garden vegetables, an abundance of divers kinds of fruits appears to me to be the readiest means of remedying this monotonous, unpleasant, and unhealthy system of living, as they are very grateful to the palate, raw or cooked. Besides, there are many instances on record, to which I need not now specially refer, of the beneficial effects to invalids of a plentiful diet of ripe fruits.

The notion has prevailed that years upon precious longed-for fruition can be realized. This is true, however, of but a few species of fruits. From one to four years only is required for the production of the most useful kinds adapted to this region. Some of them can be had in profusion in one year, and a moderate harvest of many of them can be secured in two or three years.

I spoke of garden vegetables. Before introducing the fruits individually, I would like to digress a minute, to say a word in favor of the more general cultivation of two valuable plants. I refer to asparagus and rhubarb, or pie-plant. Both are early, productive, excellent, and worthy of all acceptance.

ASPARAGUS.

This is everywhere a popular vegetable, furnishing one of our earliest dishes of what may come under the comprehensive department of "greens," and continuing in use a couple of months, when there is little else of the kind to be had. This excellent esculent may enrich the humblest tables in the Territory.

The orthodox method of setting out asparagus is in beds about four feet wide, with the plants a foot apart each way. Though it is difficult to safely fork over the soil with the crowns of plants only a foot distant from each other, yet this mode of planting may not be very objectionable in rainy countries. But here I should say, go to work in the following manner:—Dig a piece of land, as large as requisite, two spits deep, incorporating with it a liberal quantity of manure. Set the plants in rows eighteen inches to two feet apart, and a foot apart in the row. You can irrigate such a bed and hoe and fork between the rows.

You will find it to your account to spread a coat of two or three inches of manure on the bed every fall, and fork it in in the ensuing spring. A heavy sprinkling of salt every spring will kill the weeds and will not injure the asparagus, though not necessary to it, as the annual manuring alone will produce fine crops.

You can begin to cut for the table the second season, and thenceforward annually for a generation this luxury is secured to you. The nurserymen generally have one or two year old plants for sale.

RHUBARB.

This is a valuable ingredient in puddings and pies, and is one of the best substitutes for fruit. It is ready for use early in the spring, and can be pulled moderately all summer. The surplus thus gathered beyond what is required for current use, may be cut into pieces an inch or two long, dried, and kept

for years. When you dry peaches, you must drive the business, as the season is short and the work pressing. But you can gather and dry your rhubarb at your leisure, all summer long.

I should prepare the ground as for asparagus, giving a similar annual topdressing, excepting the salt. The plants may be set three feet apart each way.

If particularly desired, a few stalks can be pulled from vigorous roots the same season they are planted. Do not take all the stems from a plant at any time. After five or six years, the roots should be taken up, and the crowns divided, and replanted singly as at the first.

THE APPLE.

I consider this the most useful of all fruits, not only for its general goodness for dessert or for cooking, but also because of its being in season all the year round, for, as every body knows, the late varieties of one year will keep till the early ones of the next are ripe.

Even this fruit can be obtained in three or four years from planting. It seems but yesterday that the great rush was made for Cache Valley, and already apples have been produced in that northern region.

Do not waste your energies upon miserable seedlings, but procure trees or buds of some of the fine kinds which have been imported into the Territory, such as the Early Harvest, Red June, Early Joe, Keswick Codling, Porter, Spitzenburgh, Rhode Island Greening, and a large and satisfactory list of others. It would not pay everybody to raise new varieties from seed. One seedling in a thousand might prove highly valuable. With most of us, time is too precious to be spent in such experiments.

In the States and in Europe the apple is dwarfed on the Paradise stock, itself a shrub apple. So dwarfed, the trees not only occupy less space, but bear earlier. A similar method of propagation might be useful here.

THE PEAR.

This is the favorite fruit of modern times. To my taste, for the dessert, the pear stands far higher than the apple, and baked pears are a prized dish with many people. From my earliest recollection, apples were not to be thought of for immediate eating, when good pears were in the way. In the length of its season for use, the pear ranks next to the apple.

Pear culture is rather backward in these valleys, but something more worthy has been accomplished since the return from south. Several years will elapse before the Belle Lucrative, the Flemish Beauty, the Bartlett, the Seckel, and many others of these fine fruits are in any wise common with us.

In the States and elsewhere, the Angers and other quince stocks are employed to dwarf the pear upon and to induce early bearing. But the high culture and the severe and skillful pruning necessary to good results, I fear, will prevent dwarf pears from being common.

THE CHERRY.

The cherry is a beautiful and agreeable addition to the dessert, and not without value for cooking. The earliest of tree fruits, it is ever a favorite, especially with the children.

Little has been done in propagating the cherry in this Territory, but several first-rate kinds have been imported. As it is an early and a productive bearer and a fine-looking and pleasant fruit, it is to be hoped that pending and future efforts for the propagation and diffusion of the more excellent kinds will be crowned with success.

THE PEACH, NECTARINE, AND APRICOT.

The peach commends itself by its rapid growth, easy culture, early bearing, productiveness, and luscious excellence, being considered the most delicious of fruits. But this superlative term can only by any possibility apply to the first-class kinds, such as Early York, George the Fourth, Grosse Mignonne or Kensington, and others of a similar high character.

This fruit is very common with us, and in the brief season of perfection is almost a drug in the market. But the diminutive, hairy, dry, tasteless, filbert-looking circumstances, with a consistence varying from that of a hog's snout to that of a sheep's fleece, which constitute the staple of some of the orchards hereabout, are a perfect burlesque upon the idea of a peach.

As there are some excellent seedlings growing in this city, as well as several of the best varieties imported from the States, it is extremely unsatisfactory, and is a sheer waste of time and labor, to continue to produce the wretchedly inferior kinds with which we are flooded every September.

The nectarine, a very beautiful fruit, is a smooth-skinned peach, and valuable on that account.

The apricot, in consequence of its earliness and goodness, is specially desirable, and deserves to be much more common than it is with us.

THE PLUM.

The curculio, or plum-weevil, proves highly destructive to this crop in the States. Here we have happily escaped the visits of this depredator, and the plum flourishes with us as well as can be desired.

Though equally destitute of the exceeding juiciness and melting tenderness of the finest peaches, and the prussic acid bitterness incident to many of them, to my taste the best varieties of the plum possess a peculiar richness of flavor all their own.

The small, hardy, prolific, but inferior and uncookable wild plum, which is almost the

only one cultivated in parts of this Territory, bears no kind of comparison with such excellent imported varieties as the Green Gage, Jefferson, McLaughlin, Imperial Gage, Purple Favorite, Magnum Bonum, and several others.

The plum, in its finest varieties, should become one of our standard fruits. Trees of a few good kinds can be procured, which ought to bear in two or three years from planting. Many persons would find it to their advantage to bud their worthless young peach trees with the superior kinds of plums, and thus be able to enjoy this fine fruit quicker and more easily than by planting.

THE CURRANT.

The wild currants from the kanyons, as a general thing, are not great favorites with me. Some of them are as agreeable to the taste as lobelia or tobacco, mixed with verjuice. The yellow kinds I consider scarcely admissible for the dessert, and not worth the cooking, when black ones can be obtained. Of this last color, or approaching it, I have met with two or three fine varieties—large, juicy, sweet, and well-flavored, and with a skin thinner than a bull's hide. They will cook well and will make good preserves. When one is planting, it is as easy to plant the best as the worst, and it is far more satisfactory for ever afterwards.

But there are other kinds within reach. For preserves, the Black Naples, similar but superior to the Black English, with several like varieties, stand perhaps pre-eminent. The White Dutch and White Grape, the Red Dutch, the Victoria, the Versailles, the large but acid Cherry, with other valuable varieties, are growing here, and the time may not be long before they entirely supersede the inferior mountain kinds, which we were glad to obtain when other and better were beyond our reach.

The currant bushes, with their profuse crops of long bunches of yellowish-white or clear red berries, are a very pleasant sight, and they are as useful as pleasant. Everybody should have them.

In one or two years from planting, according to size of trees, the fruit begins to appear. In the summer the foliage is scorched, or turns yellow, but the green leaves and the ever welcome berries appear the next year as usual.

THE GOOSEBERRY.

A high authority considers this the most valuable of fruits for the poor, growing in a small space, even under unfavorable circumstances, and coming soon into productive bearing.

The large English kinds can with difficulty be grown in the States, the mildew exercising an unfavorable effect upon the trees. But they do not appear to be affected in this Territory. On the contrary, when well rooted, they flourish as finely as can be desired. In a year or two from planting, they begin to produce a crop, and thenceforward more abundantly.

For reasons why the Crown Bob, Rearing Lion, Green Gage, Jolly Angler, Conquering Hero, Early Sulphur, Whitesmith, and many others of the large and excellent English kinds, red, green, yellow, and white, should not be successfully grown here. The fruit is estimable for the dessert or for cooking, and the trees are healthy, thrifty, and productive.

Last spring, I procured from Mr. T. W. Ellerbeck a plant of the Houghton Seedling, an American variety of small size, but productive, and of fine quality. When I set it out, the stem was scarcely six inches long, and about as thick as a straw, but the little thing started vigorously, ripened fifteen berries the past summer, and made a good growth at the same time. This I mention, not as anything extraordinary, but merely to show that it is not necessary for any of us to grow gray without tasting of fruit from our own planting.

What are popularly known as the English currants and gooseberries may be budded upon the common wild currant, but I prefer them with their own roots.

THE RASPBERRY.

This is a pleasant and grateful fruit, and comes in at a good time. The Brinck's Orange, Red Antwerp, Fastolf, Franconia, Knevet's Giant, and several others, have a high reputation in the States, and as far as fruited have proved fine here.

As the canes of most kinds are not very hardy, it is considered necessary to cover them with earth, or protect them in some other way from the severity of the winter's cold. The Black Cap is hardy, but inferior to some. All will fruit the second year from planting.

I am a little prejudiced against the raspberry, because I have observed, here as elsewhere, that the berries are apt to be infested with a minute grub, which can be detected only by careful inspection. I have not discovered this parasite on any other species of fruit.

THE BLACKBERRY.

There are several large improved kinds of blackberry which are thought much of in the States. Since when a stripling I rambled off in the lanes and fields, hunting birds' nests in the hedgerows, I have had very little acquaintance with this bramble, though two or three kinds of it are now growing in the Territory. My recollections are, that there is a certain "flatness" pertaining to the flavor of a blackberry pie, which renders the admixture of apples a decided improvement.

Our severe winters will probably necessitate a covering of the canes, to insure safety.

The blackberry produces the second year from planting.

THE STRAWBERRY.

What shall I say of this exquisite, this matchless fruit! The first that greets us after the long and dreary winter, and scarcely surpassed by any in its refreshing and invigorating qualities, its yearly appearance is indeed thrice welcome. Beautiful to the eye, inexpressibly grateful to the palate, profuse and certain in its crops, readily and rapidly propagated, and so very quick in its returns, this most humble and most wholesome of fruits is truly a blessing of no small magnitude, one which all God's children should endeavor to enjoy, and which deserves to be highly prized.

Set out in the spring, in two or three months a few scattering berries show themselves, a pleasing foretaste of the next year's full fruition. Planted in the summer, or early fall, a fair crop will be seen the following spring.

As with everything else, good culture pays the best, yet, when once established in the lot, with sufficient moisture, from its own inherent power of propagation the strawberry is there forever, and will annually produce something. But those who wish for fruit of the highest quality, and plenty of it, must needs adopt the means, enriching and deeply working the soil, keeping down weeds, removing all runners as fast as they appear, watering liberally and often, and renewing the beds as they give evidence of exhaustion, which will be after the first, second, third, fourth, or perhaps fifth full crop, according to the variety, the manner of planting, and the depth and thoroughness of the culture. The Bartlett has been forced to fruit continuously for eight successive months.

Of the score or more of the best kinds known, and now growing in this city, the V. comtesse Hericart de Thury, the Excellente, the Triomphe de Gand, the Victoria, and the Wilson's Albany will afford satisfaction.

I know of no more agreeable remedy for that common and sometimes fatal disease, the canker, than a course of liberal dosing of ripe strawberries. Golden Seal is nowhere in comparison.

If you never thought of it before, do not pass another spring without planting a good sized bed of the finest strawberries obtainable. You will never regret it. Your friends will esteem you all the more, your wife will like you not a whit the less, and even your little ones will think their fathers are improving.

THE GRAPE.

The inspiring fruit of the grape vine from remote ages has been at once the symbol of peace, plenty, and refined enjoyment.

A short time ago, the opinion obtained in this city that qualities not possessed by the California or Los Angeles grape were not worth the seeking. However, the adjudication at the State Fair last October, of the first and second prizes to Mr. Ellerbeck's Chasselas Musque and Rose Chasselas specimens, brought to light the germs of a revolution in opinion, opened the eyes of many persons to an idea of the possibility of something superior, and begot desires and stimulated to efforts of an exalted nature.

Instead of the tender and late California being almost the only cultivated variety, we have now in addition, not merely the pungent Isabella, Catawba, and Concord, but the bards and estimable Delaware, Diana, and Elsinburgh, the choicest representatives of the early and excellent Chasselas family, the celebrated French and German wine grapes—Red Traminer and White Riesling, the luscious Black Hamburg, the delicious Frontignans, and the exquisite White Muscat of Alexandria, with several of its splendid subvarieties. Indeed, there is reason to hope that forty or fifty of the finest kinds of both American and exotic grapes, hardy, half-hardy, or tender, for culture in the open air or under glass, for table or for wine, will be flourishing in this city of the desert during the forthcoming summer.

True, some of these varieties may not prove worthy of extensive or general cultivation, but the whole will afford liberal scope for experiment as to suitability to this climate, and for choice as to quality and flavor. A few of them are comparatively tender and late, as they are exceedingly high-flavored and of surpassing excellence of quality, though any one determined to enjoy their delightful products, where glass structures are out of the question, will be under the necessity of covering the vines at nights in the spring and fall with a straw mat, which almost any person can improvise, a few cornstalks, a wagon cover, boards, or any suitable material, to preserve the foliage from the nipping fingers of Jack Frost. The vines must be covered for the winter, too, with soil, as is now done with the California grape. While it is an unmitigated necessity with tender vines, experienced grape growers assert that in climates as severe as this, the labor of winter covering of even the hardy varieties, is well repaid by the superiority of the succeeding crop.

It is a matter of joyful congratulation that the mildew, which sometimes blights the prospects of the vigneron of Continental Europe, and entirely prevents the successful out-door cultivation of foreign grapes in our Northern States, has inflicted no devastation here, and is, I believe, unknown in connection with grape culture in this Territory. So far, the delicate exotics and the more robust natives appear equally healthy with us.

With a moderate amount of labor, care, and skill, and a selection of early and late varieties, this noble fruit may be enjoyed for six months in the year—from the first of September to the last of February.